

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05864 01 OF 02 111707Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----090369 111712Z /50

O R 111615Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6686  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 5864

EXDIS - MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR  
SUBJ: GREEK VIEWS OF MFA SECGENS' ANKARA MEETING

REF: ANKARA 4978 (DTG 070820 JUL 78)

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS THE GREEKS APPEAR  
GENUINELY ENCOURAGED FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH TURKISH  
OFFICIALS. IN SEPARATE DEBRIEFINGS WITH CHARGE AND AN EMBASSY  
POLITICAL OFFICER, BYRON THEODOROPOULOS, GREEK MFA SECRETARY  
GENERAL, AND DIMITRI MACRIS, DIRECTOR FOR TURKISH-CYPRIT  
AFFAIRS, BOTH SHOWED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION AT THE ATMOS-  
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PHERE WHICH PREVAILED DURING THE JULY 4-5 ANKARA MEETINGS  
BETWEEN THE SECGENS. THE GREEKS SENSED A GENUINE  
WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE TURKS TO DISCUSS  
DIFFERENCES FRANKLY, WITHOUT POLEMICS AND IN A SPIRIT  
OF GOOD WILL. THEY ATTRIBUTED THE "CHANGED MOOD" IN  
ANKARA TO ECEVIT'S DETERMINATION THAT SOMETHING BE DONE  
TO RETURN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS TO AN EVEN KEEL.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEORGE RALLIS ALSO ADOPTED THIS POSITIVE APPROACH IN DISCUSSING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WITH JOURNALISTS THIS PAST WEEKEND.

2. THEODOROPOULOS TOLD THE CHARGE HE HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED ELEKDAG TO BE A HARD-LINE, DIFFICULT MAN TO DEAL WITH BUT CAME AWAY FROM THE ANKARA MEETING WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS DIRECT AND OUTSPOKEN, HE IS REASONABLE AND SOMEONE THEODOROPOULOS CAN WORK WITH COOPERATIVELY. THEODOROPOULOS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD BEEN THROUGH A NUMBER OF ENTHUSIASTIC "NEW DEPARTURES" IN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER SO HE DID NOT WANT TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, BUT HE BELIEVES HE AND ELEKDAG HAVE OPENED A NEW CHANNEL WHICH CAN CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL. FROM THE BEGINNING BOTH AGREED THEY WOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATING BUT MERELY EXPLORING ALL POSSIBILITIES. WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING COULD BE PUT ON THE TABLE WITHOUT FEAR THAT EXPLORATORY SUGGESTIONS WOULD LATER BE EXPLOITED AS "COMMITMENTS" BY THE OTHER SIDE.

3. THE GREEKS SPOKE GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES ELEKDAG REPORTED TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH THE MEETINGS WERE HELD WITHOUT A FIXED AGENDA, THE TWO MAIN SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE AND CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUES. ON AIR SPACE, THE GREEKS TOLD US BOTH SIDES HAVE NOW REACHED CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT ON ALL OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE REOPENING OF THE AIR CORRIDORS OVER THE AEGEAN. EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES WILL CONDUCT A FINAL REVIEW AND IF ALL GOES WELL AN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE REOPENING OF THE CORRIDORS COULD BE MADE DURING THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SECGENS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN ATHENS DURING SEPTEMBER (PROBABLY MID-MONTH, SINCE THEODOROPOULOS WILL BE IN MOSCOW WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND IN BRUSSELS AT THE END OF THE MONTH).

4. WITH REGARD TO AIR SPACE SECURITY ZONES, THE GREEKS SAID FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE STILL REQUIRED. THE TURKISH SIDE CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE GREEKS NOTIFY TURKISH AUTHORITIES OF ANY FLIGHTS OCCURRING WITHIN A ZONE OF APPROXIMATELY 55 TO 60 MILES WEST OF THE FRONTIER, A ZONE WHICH CORRESPONDS ROUGHLY WITH THE AREA CONTAINED IN NATAM 714, WHILE AGREEING TO NOTIFY THE GREEKS ONLY OF TURKISH FLIGHTS WHICH WILL CROSS THE FRONTIER. THE GREEKS DID NOT REJECT THE TURKISH POSITIONS OUTRIGHT, WE WERE TOLD,BUT INSISTED THAT RECIPROCITY BE APPLIED IN WHATEVER SECURITY ZONE ARRANGEMENT IS FINALLY ACHIEVED.

5. ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, THEODOROPOULOS AND MAKRIS TOLD US BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO IMPLEMENT PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 OF THE 1976 BERN AGREEMENT IN WHICH A COMMISSION OF EXPERTS LED BY AMBASSADORS TZOUNIS AND BILGE WOULD EXAMINE PERTINENT INTERNATIONAL LAW, HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS, ETC., TO DEVISE METHODS FOR DELIMITING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE GREEKS EMPHASIZED THAT THIS COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO DELVE INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE DISPUTE UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON DELIMITATION. THEODOROPOULOS RECOGNIZES THAT THIS COMMISSION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FINISH ITS WORK BY SEPTEMBER BUT HOPES IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE FOLLOWING SECGEN MEETING.

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-----090448 111717Z /50

O R 111615Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 5864

EXDIS - MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

6. THE GREEK PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGRESSION PACT, WE WERE TOLD, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKS IN ITS PRESENT FORM. AFTER REITERATING THE ARGUMENT THAT A NON-AGRESSION PACT BETWEEN TWO NATO ALLIES WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE, THE TURKS SUGGESTED THE SCOPE OF THE

AGREEMENT BE BROADENED. THEODOROPOULOS FORESEES POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IF SOME OF THE MATTERS PROPOSED BY ELEKDAG ARE INCLUDED BUT THINKS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DEVISE SOME FORMULA WHICH MEETS THE CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES.

7. FINALLY, THE GREEKS AGREED TO START THE RATIFICATION PROCESS ON EARLIER AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN GREECE  
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AND TURKEY WHICH GOVERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE TO SETTLE DISPUTED AREAS ALONG THE EVROS RIVER. THE MAIN TASKS OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE FRONTIER MARKERS ORIGINALLY SET IN 1926 AS WELL AS TO DETERMINE WHICH COUNTRY HAD SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE SMALL AREAS WHERE THE EVROS HAD CHANGED ITS COURSE.

8. THE TURKS OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF MINORITIES BUT THEODOROPOULOS DEMURRED, SAYING IT WAS A SUBJECT BEST LEFT TO THE PRIME MINISTERS THEMSELVES TO HANDLE. CYPRUS, NATO, FORTIFICATION OF GREEK ISLAND, AND THE EMBARGO ISSUES WERE NOT DISCUSSED EXCEPT IN PASSING. THEODOROPOULOS SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION THE MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT RAISED BY THE TURKS WERE JUST AS SIGNIFICANT AS THOSE WHICH WERE.  
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